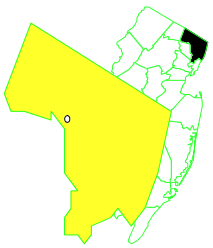
FAIR LAWN WELL FIELD

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD980654107



EPA REGION 2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #05 & #09

Bergen County

Borough of Fair Lawn

Site Description

The Fair Lawn Well field site is comprised of three municipal wells that supply drinking water to the 32,000 residents of Fair Lawn, Bergen County, New Jersey. All three wells are part of the Westmoreland Well Field. In 1978, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in these municipal supply wells located within and adjacent to the Fair Lawn Industrial Park. In an effort to identify the origin of the contamination, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) investigated all industrial and commercial facilities within a 3,000 foot radius of the contaminated wells. The investigation concluded that the primary source of the contamination was located in Fair Lawn Industrial Park. As a result of the investigation, two local companies, Fisher Scientific Company and Sandvik, Inc., have been identified as contributing sources to the groundwater contamination. The site is bounded predominantly by industries of Fair Lawn with the Fair Lawn Industrial Park to the northeast and the Passaic River to the southwest. Several residences are within 300 feet of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/01/82
Final Date: 09/01/83

Threats and Contaminants

VOCs were detected in the groundwater from the three municipal wells. The threat due to exposure to the contaminated groundwater has been significantly reduced, since air strippers are currently treating contaminated groundwater from the municipal wells prior to distribution to the residents.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial action. The immediate action of wellhead treatment has addressed the municipal well contamination, while the long-term action will focus on the entire groundwater cleanup and controlling potential sources of contamination.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1984, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Fisher Scientific Company and Sandvik, Inc., removed contaminated soil from a portion of their property. In 1987, the Borough of Fair Lawn installed air strippers to treat the contaminated wells. The PRPs later reimbursed the Borough for the installation of the air strippers and provided funding for future operation and maintenance activities.

Long-Term Actions:

Source Areas: Under NJDEP oversight, both Fisher Scientific and Sandvik conducted an investigation of their facilities. Fisher has installed cut off trenches and pumping wells at their facility to collect contaminated groundwater for on-site treatment and discharge to a publicly owned water treatment works. Sandvik has removed and disposed of soil and buried drums, and is periodically monitoring the groundwater.

Groundwater: In September 1992, EPA became the lead agency for the site cleanup, and initiated a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination and contributing sources.

Site Facts

In 1984, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed with the State by both Fisher Scientific and Sandvik to conduct an on-site investigation of soil and groundwater, removal and disposal of contaminated soils, long-term monitoring of on-site groundwater quality, and payment to the Borough of Fair Lawn for installation, and operation and maintenance of the air stripper. Subsequently, due to a change in ownership, the Fisher site became subject to the Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (ECRA). An AOC was later signed in 1986 by Fisher Scientific's parent company, Allied Signal, and the State for continuation of remedial activities, including construction of a groundwater collection system.

During May and June of 1995, EPA, in conjunction with the Fair Lawn Health and Water Department, conducted a residential well sampling and analysis program to determine the quality of residential well water and its usage. It was determined that the residential wells were used either for irrigational purposes or for potable purposes. The sampling results of the program indicated that the wells used for potable purposes met established drinking water standards.

In March 1997, in an effort to gather additional information on the groundwater contamination, EPA requested information from several facilities within Fair Lawn concerning the nature and quantity of certain materials which they may have generated, treated, stored or disposed of at their facilities. In December 1998, EPA requested additional information from several other facilities within the Fair

Lawn Industrial Park concerning the nature and quantity of their material. In January 2000, EPA requested information from several realty corporations who own property within the Fair Lawn Industrial Park concerning former and/or present lessees of their property. EPA has continued to search for additional potential sources of groundwater contamination.

In April 1999, EPA entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for their technical assistance in developing a groundwater flow model that defines contaminant plume(s) and capture zones from existing pump and treat wells in order to determine if any further actions are necessary. The project is being conducted through several phases. Phase I activities included an assessment of all existing site hydro-geological data. Phase I was completed in August 1999. Phase II activities included aquifer slug testing and water quality sampling from five identified wells. Phase II was completed in March 2001. The USGS is continuing their effort with Phase III of the groundwater study. Under the Phase III activities, the USGS has gathered additional hydro-geological data from another identified well for inclusion into a groundwater flow model of the Site Area. The USGS is currently developing a groundwater flow model. The groundwater flow model will be presented by the USGS in May 2002. A final groundwater study report is expected to be completed by September 2002. Based on this report, a followup investigation and/or cleanup strategy will be developed, if necessary.

Cleanup Progress  (Threats Mitigated by Cleanup Process)

The immediate actions described above have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated groundwater and soil at the Fair Lawn Well Field site while further investigations are taking place. The impacted public supply wells are currently being treated to remove contaminants and to ensure that the public is provided with a safe drinking water supply. The air stripper located at the Westmoreland Well Field is continuing to treat approximately 0.2 million gallons per day of contaminated groundwater.